

Message Text

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27 JUN 74 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 15791

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, PGOV,

SUBJECT: AMB. SCALI'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER

SAUVAGNARGUES

SUMMARY: DURING AMBASSADOR SCALI'S CALL ON FRENCH
FOREIGN MINISTER, LATTER SAID GOF WILL AVOID UNNECESSARY
QUARRELS, AND WILL SEEK MAINTAIN ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY.
IMPROVED TONE OF US-FRENCH BILATERAL RELATIONS, HOWEVER,
SHOULD NOT LEAD ANYONE TO MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT GOF WILL
NOT CONTINUE TO PURSUE INDEPENDENT POLICIES WHEREVER
NECESSARY FOR FRANCE'S BEST INTERESTS. ON UN AFFAIRS,
FOREIGN MINISTER AND SCALI AGREED ON VALUE OF ADVANCED
CONSULTATIONS, AS WELL AS ON FACT THAT UN MAY NOT BE
MOST APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR DISCUSSIONS OF CURRENT WORLD
ECONOMIC CRISIS. END SUMMARY

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1. IN CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES, AMBASSADOR

SCALI SAID SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH NEW AND FRIENDLY TONE BROUGHT TO U.S.-FRENCH RELATIONS BY SAUVAGNARGUES. FOREIGN MINISTER RESPONDED THAT HE IS TOTALLY OPPOSED TO UNNECESSARY ARGUMENTS OR QUARRELS. OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS SHOULD REFLECT A GENUINE DESIRE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS ON A PRAGMATIC BASIS. HOWEVER, USG SHOULD NOT GET WRONG IMPRESSION ABOUT FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN FRENCH POLICY. FRANCE WILL MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENT POLICIES WHEREVER ITS INTERESTS SO DICTATE. ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN IDENTITY OF INTERESTS IN ALL AREAS. THERE ARE AREAS WHERE U.S. LEADERSHIP IS ESSENTIAL. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON STRATEGIC BALANCE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE USSR. IN THIS THE EUROPEAN ALLIES CAN ONLY BE INFORMED. BUT ELSEWHERE, THE FRENCH AND EUROPEANS MUST MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENT OPTIONS. WITHIN THIS CONTEXT, THERE NO REASON WHY INDIVIDUAL PROBLEMS CANNOT BE SOLVED IN A SPIRIT OF PRAGMATIC CONSULTATION AND GOODWILL. AMB. SCALI RESPONDED THAT USG COULD UNDERSTAND THIS POINT OF VIEW, AND THAT IMPROVEMENT OF THE BASIC ATMOSPHERE AND TONE OF OUR RELATIONS WHICH WE HAVE NOTED IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT AND VERY WELCOME. SAUVAGNARGUES NOTED THAT IN VIEW OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY IN FRANCE ABOUT ALLEGED U.S. ATTEMPTS TO DOMINATE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, IT WOULD BE IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST FOR USG TO AVOID PUBLIC REFERENCES TO SAUVAGNARGUES AS AN IMPROVEMENT OVER HIS PREDECESSOR.

2. IN RESPONSE TO SAUVAGNARGUES' QUERY RE UN DEVELOPMENTS, AMB. SCALI SAID USG CONCERNED ABOUT LDC USE OF UNITED NATIONS AS FORUM FOR DISCUSSIONS OF WORLD-WIDE ECONOMIC CRISIS. USG WORRIED THAT CREATION OF SPECIA FUNDS AND ADDITIONAL BUREAUCRACIES, AS WELL AS TACTICS OF LDC'S SEEKING TO PLACE ALL OF THE ECONOMIC BURDENS ON THE INDUSTRIALIZED POWERS CAN ONLY BE HARMFUL TO EFFORTS TO FIND HELPFUL SOLUTIONS. SAUVAGNARGUES AGREED THAT UN MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE
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FORUM FOR THIS PROBLEM AND SAID HE WOULD MAKE POINT TO ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR WHO WOULD BE CALLING IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD. GOF HOLDS THE VIEW, HOWEVER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD'S INITIAL POLICY STATEMENT, THAT INDUSTRIALIZED POWERS MUST SHOW SPECIAL SYMPATHY FOR PLIGHT OF LDC'S, ESPECIALLY THE POOREST COUNTRIES. GOF WOULD BE EXPLORING WAYS THIS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED. SCALI SAID UN AMB DE GUIRINGAUD WAS RESPECTED AS

EXPERIENCED DIPLOMAT IN UN COMMUNITY. HE NOTED THAT WHILE MAINTAINING FRIENDLIEST PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP HE AND FRENCH REP WOUND UP ON OPPOSITE SIDES ON SEVERAL IMPORTANT OCCASIONS IN PAST. AS FRENCH-AMERICAN RELATIONS IMPROVE, SCALI EXPRESSED HOPE THERE WOULD BE CLOSER COOPERATION ON DIFFICULT ISSUES IN UN. FOREIGN MINISTER MADE NO PROMISES BUT SPOKE OF VALUE OF ADVANCE HARMONIOUS CONSULTATIONS.

3. SAUVAGNARGUES DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS FREEST FOREIGN MINISTER FRANCE HAS KNOWN IN THE LAST 25 YEARS. HE RECEIVED HIS POLICY GUIDANCE FROM PRESIDENT GISCARD, AND HE WOULD DO HIS VERY BEST TO CARRY IT OUT AS HE SAW FIT, BUT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T LIKE WHAT HE WAS DOING, THEN THEY COULD GET SOMEONE ELSE.
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